

Intro

~ What's your struggle you're going through? Relationships, health, family, job, financial, choices, needs, sin?

~ We all face struggles on this earth – it's a part of life. Life just isn't fair

~ *John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

There are a few views on the scene here in Revelation 21.

1 Millennial Kingdom – there's reason not to view this as the millennial kingdom

2 Eternal State

- Ezekiel 40-48 make reference to a Millennial temple in the kingdom but Rev 21:22 says there's no temple
- In the Millennial kingdom Christ reigns from sea to sea (Ps 72:8; Zech 9:10) but there's no sea in Rev 21:1
- In the Kingdom Christ will be praised from the rising to the setting of the sun (Mal 1:11) yet there is no need for the sun because the glory of God and the lamb are the light in it (Rev 21:23)
- There will be unbelievers who get deceived in the Millennial kingdom (Rev 20:7-9) but there will be no unbelievers in the eternal state (Rev 21:8,27)
- The dimensions of this heavenly city (the New Jerusalem) are larger than the dimensions of the Kingdom

*So, all that being said...this holy city, New Jerusalem is the eternal state

The features of the Heavenly City (New Jerusalem) based on Revelation chapters 21,22

1 It's comprised of believers (Rev 21:27)

2 Who else is present in this Heavenly City?

- Believers
- God Himself
- The Lamb of God
- The glory of God is the light of this city

3 The features of the city itself

- A place of incredible beauty
- Adorned with jewels and gold
- It has a river of life
- It has a throne of God
- It has a tree of life

4 What do the Saints do in the Heavenly City

- Worship
- Serve
- Praise God forever and enjoy his presence

5 What is absent from the Heavenly City

- Conflict, Tears, Crying, Pain, Mourning, Sickness or Disease, Night, Sin, Death, Curse, Temple, Sun or Moon

Rev 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Outline

1 Sin

2 Suffering

3 Sickness

4 Sorrow

Body

1 Sin

- Sin is the cause of the sorrow and suffering we experience and endure
- This sin was introduced by Adam and Eve in the garden (Gen 3) when they disobeyed Lord's command
- We learn from this that man corrupts God's good creation

- Sin is a corrupter
- God can put us in a perfect situation and perfect surroundings and we'll find a way to corrupt it
- We can blame other people for problems they've created but how many situations have we corrupted ourselves?
- Sin has corrupted all of creation
- After sinning in the garden we see the effects of sin
 - Adam and Eve's eyes were open and they saw they were naked
 - The blame others for their sin
 - They hide from God
 - The serpent is now made to crawl on its belly
 - They're kicked out of the Garden of Eden
 - When Eve has children there will be pain in childbirth
 - In the garden Adam had fruit all around him to eat but now he'll have to work and sweat to provide for himself and Eve. There was no sweating in the garden
 - Their first child is a murderer as Cain kills Abel
- The reason we see hate, war, division, immorality, jealousy, anger, harsh words is because we're sinners
- We're aware of our sinfulness, weakness and past sins
- We'll sin no more and no one will sin against us
- But in the Heavenly City there will be no more sin

2 Suffering

- Suffering is a part of life that we all experience
- Suffering encompasses many different things
- Our suffering consists of trials, tribulations, tests and temptations
- Our suffering sows itself in adversity in our job, family, relationships, financial adversity,
- Covid-19 has caused difficulty for all of us. It's been an inconvenience. The real tragedy of covid-19 isn't our inconvenience of wearing masks, not being able to attend church for a few months. The real tragedy of it is those who have lost loved ones due to covid-19
- Sometimes the suffering is due to righteous suffering and sometimes due to our own foolishness and bad choices – regardless there will be no more suffering
- Sometimes the suffering comes because our service for Christ
- Romans 8:18-30 = the theme is "suffering to glory"
- Rom 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
- Once we're in the Heavenly City there will be no more suffering

3 Sickness

- V4 tells us there will be no more pain
- What kind of pain could be in mind? Physical, emotional and spiritual
- Imagine an eternity where there's no more sickness, no more cancer, no more loss of hearing or sight
- No more emotional pain that. No more hurt feelings, no more being offended or offending others
- No more death because of sickness or just from age
- Once we're in the Heavenly City there will be no more sickness

4 Sorrow

- The word means mourning or grief
- Imagine if we could calculate the amount of grief we've experienced in our lifetime. Sadness no more
- No more depression, discouragement
- In the Heavenly City there will be no sorrow

Conclusion

~ Heaven will be absent of our earthly struggles

~ How are we preparing for our eternity with Christ? I spoke about seeking Christ in our Wednesday message

~ 2 Cor 4:15-18

~ God uses this present suffering to conform us to Christ's image